

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: May 28, 2002

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-81)

TO: Joe DeHerrera, KEWU-4
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Proposed Action: Indian Creek/ Trick Runoff and Buffering System

Project No: 1992-026-01

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 2.4 Provide Filter Strips to Catch Sediment and Other Pollutants; 3.15 Filter Strips; 3.17 Sediment Basins

Location: Indian Creek, Elgin, Union County, Oregon

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and Union Soil and Conservation District.

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to partially fund a project with the Union Soil and Water Conservation District that will relocate existing livestock corrals and create a vegetated buffer strip. This project is cooperatively funded by BPA, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Union Soil and Water Conservation District, and the private landowner. This project will exceed requirements for the Upper Grande Ronde Agricultural Management Area Plan and is part of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) through Farm Services Administration and NRCS.

Specifically the project will first remove, setback, and reconstruct 80 feet of corral to allow space for the proposed trench and vegetated swale. Second, a 150- by 1- by 2-foot wide diversion trench will be constructed adjacent to the corrals to collect runoff and divert it to the constructed vegetative swale. Finally, a 200- by 2- by 3-foot wide vegetated wetland swale will be constructed adjacent to the corrals and planted with vegetation consistent with the site. Any fill that is removed due to constructing the trenches will be used in creating the vegetated swale. The vegetated swale will be maintained for a period of at least five years.

The intended benefits of this project are two-fold. First, the project will minimize livestock waste loading into Indian Creek by passively treating nutrient-laden water using perennial vegetation that will take up the nutrients. Second, this project will demonstrate to other waste producers the environmental and aesthetic benefits associated with the passive treatment of nutrient laden runoff water. This will help livestock producers comply with state and federal water quality regulations.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Sarah Hendrickson with the Union Soil and Water Conservation District (signed by Lyle A. Kuchenbecker, 04/11/02), and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

It has been determined that the project will have no effect on any threatened or endangered species. The Endangered Species Act-listed species that potentially occur in the project area include bald eagle, gray wolf, Canada lynx, bull trout, Snake River steelhead, Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon, and Snake River fall chinook salmon. Since the work will be done in an existing corral or the highly disturbed area immediately adjacent to it, there will be no effect on the listed wildlife species or their habitat. Also, there has been no documented occurrence of these species in the project area. As a result, there will be no effect on them. No instream work will be done during the project and all ground disturbances will take place during the dry season. Further, the most appropriate erosion control methods will be implemented. Based on these factors, the project will have no effect on any listed fish species.

A cultural resource review was conducted by Mike Burton, District Conservationist with NRCS, on April 12, 2002. An on-site survey was conducted by Mr. Burton, a qualified cultural resource specialist, and no cultural resources were observed. The project area is on land that is heavily disturbed and either within or directly adjacent to a livestock corral. As a result, the project will have no effect on cultural or historic resources. Pursuant to NRCS's cultural resource review, the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office was contacted for concurrence (See attachments for further information). If cultural deposits are found during any stage of the proposed project, the undertaking changes, or additional lands are to be included in the project area; a cultural resource specialist will be contacted immediately.

Standard protection measures for activities near streams will be followed during the implementation of this project. No permits are required for construction of the project.

Public involvement was conducted through the review and approval process of the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program (GRMWP). The project was approved by the GRMWP Technical Committee and Board of Directors. The Board's representation includes the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Tribes, and local governments. Consultations have also taken place between the willing landowner, Union Soil and Water Conservation District, NRCS, and BPA.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program, as well as BPA's Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD. This Supplement Analysis finds that: 1) implementing the proposed action will not result in any substantial changes to the Watershed Management Program that are relevant to environmental concerns; and 2) there are no significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the

Watershed Management Program or its impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Michael S. Mayer 6-5-2002

Michael S. Mayer
Fish and Wildlife Biologist

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas C. McKinney

DATE: 6-6-2002

Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachments:

NEPA Compliance Checklist

Request for Cultural Resource Review

Email from Mike Burton, District Conservationist-NRCS to Michael Mayer, Fish and Wildlife Biologist-BPA, May 28, 2002.

cc: (w/ attachments)

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